Revival of Ramagundam fertilizer unit in Andhra Pradesh

1191. SHRIMATI N P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ramagundam Fertilizer Unit in Andhra Pradesh have been closed with effect from the 18th August, 2002;

(b) if so, the reason for the closure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided in principle to revive the above unit;

(d) if so, whether any techno-economic feasibility study has been carried out for the above unit; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) Yes Sir, the Government had conveyed the decision to close down the Ramagundam Fertilizer Unit on 30th July, 2002. The decision to close down the unit was taken due to the economic un-viability, huge accumulated losses resulting in networth becoming negative and obsolescence of technology. The Government has decided in principle to examine the feasibility of reviving the closed units of FCIL including Ramagundam Unit, subject to the confirmed availability of gas. Pursuant to the decision the company has initiated action for obtaining Techno-Economic Feasibility Report for the revival. A well run fertilizer PSU under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers, namely, M/s National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) has shown interest in the reival of Ramagundam Unit and has carried out a premliminary feasibility study. Issues pertaining to availability/connectivity of gas, investment policy and mobilization of financial resources, for revival process, are under examination.

Extending price control to some more drugs

1192. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to extend price control to some more drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court in SLP No. 3668/2003 and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme to make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor, the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 proposes, *inter alia,* that the basket for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 in addition to 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12.9.2007. No time-frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.